Others, like soldiers, armed in their stings,
Make boot upon the summer's velvet buds;
Which pillage they with merry march bring home
To the tent-royal of their emperor:
Who, busied in his majesty, surveys
The singing masons[5] building roofs of gold:
The civil[6] citizens kneading up the honey[7];
The poor mechanick porters crouding in
Their heavy burdens at his narrow gate;
The sad-ey'd justice, with his surly hum,
Delivering up to executors[8] pale

was not a little sorry, that either their estates have not been longer, or your leisure more: for in my simple judgment, there was *such an orderly government that men may not be ashamed to imitate them*." MALONE.

3 — and officers of SORTS :] Thus the folio. The quarto reads —- *sort:* i. e. high rank. See vol. vii. p. 7, n. 7; and vol. ix. p. 171, n. 2. MALONE.

" Officers of *sorts* " means ' officers of different degrees.* In a London haberdasher's bill to his customer in the country, I lately saw the following charge: "To thread of *sorts* : " i. e. of different kinds. STEEVENS.

In confirmation of Mr. Steevens's opinion it may be observed, that in A True Relation of the Admirable Voyage and Travel of William Bush, &c. 4to. 1607, we have "— drummes and *sortes* of musicke." REED.

4 — VENTURE trade abroad ;] To *venture trade* is a phrase of the same import and structure as to *hazard battle.* JOHNSON.

5 The singing masons —] Our author probably had here two images in his thoughts. The hum of abee is obvious. I believe he was also thinking of a common practice among masons, who, like many other artificers, frequently sing while at work : a practice that could not have escaped his observation. MALONE.

6 ^. civil —] i. e> sober, grave. So, in Twelfth Night:
" Where is Malvolio? he is sad and *civil*" See vol. xi. p. 448, n, 3. STEEVENS.

7 — KNEADING up the honey ;] To *knead* the honey gives an easy sense, though not physically true. The bees do, in fact, *knead* the wax more than the honey, but that Shakspeare perhaps did not know. JOHNSON.

The old quartos read—ts lading up the honey/*
STEBVENS,
? — to *Executors* —] *Executors* is here used for
*executioners**

MALON.EH